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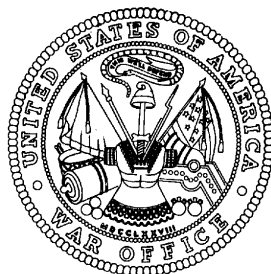
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JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

EXPLOSIVES PLANT AND STORAGE AREAS

NEAR EL'BAN, USSR



ARMY



CIA

Declass Review by
NIMA / DoD

HTA/JM-15/58

DECEMBER 1958

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EXPLOSIVES PLANT AND STORAGE AREAS

NEAR EL'BAN, USSR

HTA/JM-15/58

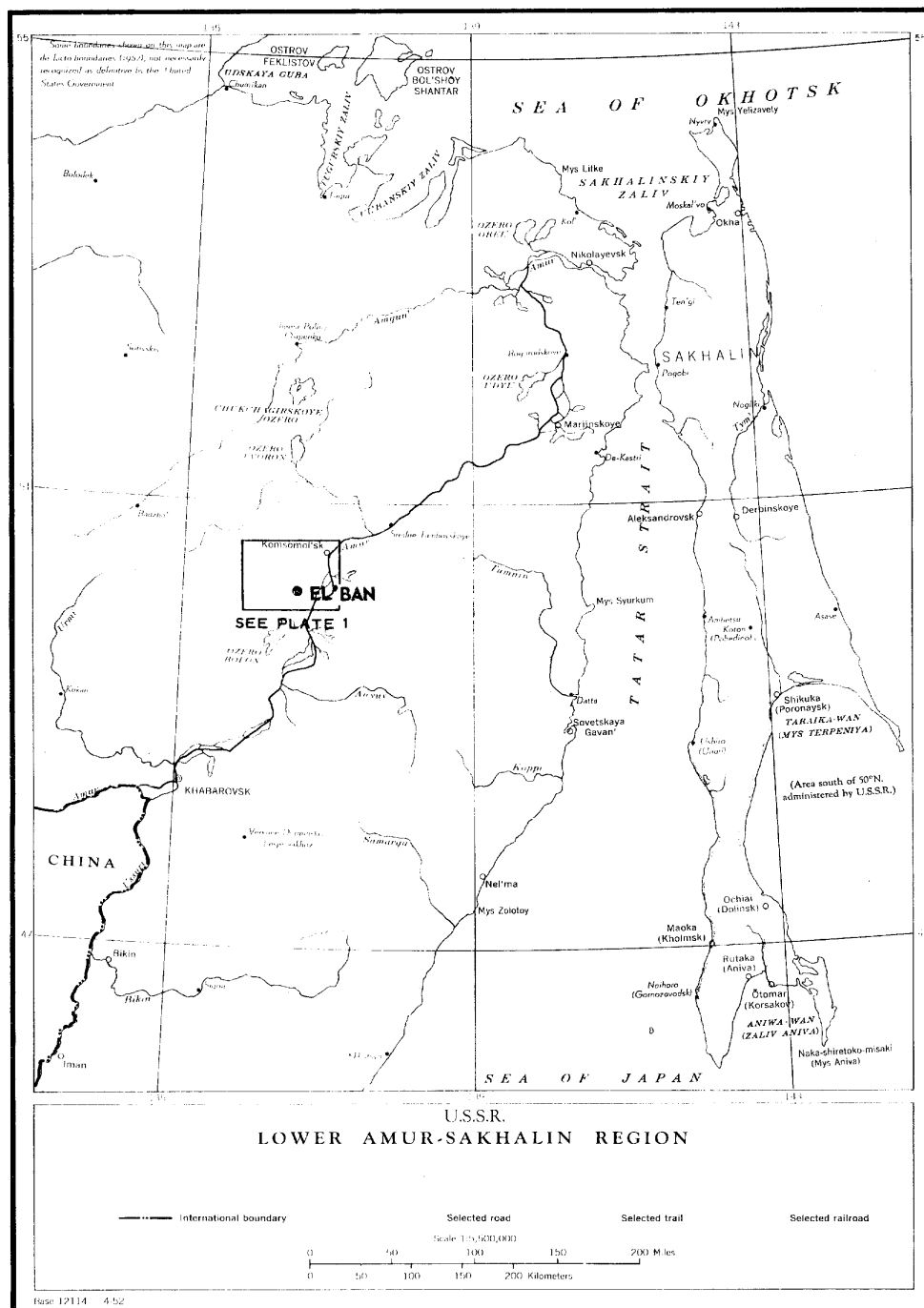
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PREFACE

This Joint Photographic Intelligence Memorandum describes three heavily-secured installations near El'ban, southwest of Komsomol'sk. It has been prepared by Army and CIA, under CIA chairmanship, and is intended to satisfy the combined requirements of the intelligence community as specified in CIA HTA/RR/R-88/58 and HTA/SI/R-21/58, and Army SRI's 61-1-58 and 98-1-58. Specifically requested are building descriptions, dimensions, locations, security, transportation facilities, and construction activity. This information is presented by means of a written text in conjunction with related maps, photos, and line drawings of the areas of interest.

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INTRODUCTION

25X1D Three heavily-secured installations in the vicinity of El'ban were covered by photography of [REDACTED] El'ban is a small settlement located on the Far Eastern Railroad (No. 27) about 34 nautical miles (nm) southwest of Komsomol'sk and 11 nm west of Ommi. These installations consist of an explosives plant situated just west of the El'ban settlement, an explosives storage area four nm to the northwest, and a probable military depot five nm south-southwest of El'ban. Plate 1 shows the relative locations and photographs of these three sites.

These installations have certain common physical characteristics. Each has been placed in a wooded section, with double security fences and guard towers along its perimeter. An area has been cleared between the fences to serve as a fire break and patrol area for security guards. All three sites are served by road and rail.

EXPLOSIVES PLANT, 50°06'N/136°30'E (Plate 2)

The explosives plant is identified primarily by the presence of revetted, industrial-type buildings and associated storage magazines. The specific product or products of the plant cannot be ascertained. The production of propellants or ammunition of some type seems to be indicated by the size and layout of buildings. The plant does not appear to have adequate facilities for the manufacture of guided missiles or nuclear components of special weapons. Considerable open storage of boxes or bags along rail spurs adds to that interpretation.

The explosives plant is comparatively small and not of recent construction. It is apparent on photography that the plant's boundaries have been contracted, since there is a regrowth of vegetation in the outer cleared area whereas the inner cleared area is free of vegetation. The line drawing (Plate 2) illustrates the reduction in size of this installation, which could indicate a tightening of plant security. The majority of its 60 buildings show some signs of age such as roof stains. The only exceptions to this are at the south end of the plant where a possible steam plant is under construction (Item 39, Plate 2) and foundations appear to be laid for some type of storage building (Item 15, Plate 2). It is not known whether this construction activity is in the nature of plant expansion or is possibly due to some change in production. [REDACTED] charts of 1943-44 show most of the same plant buildings and roads and the old perimeter fence but do not show the new fences or construction activity.

The over-all size of this plant with its present boundaries is approximately 6,000 by 4,000 feet. There is a fairly good road network within the plant. The warehouses are also served by rail spurs which converge outside the plant in one line that appears to turn off of the Far Eastern Railroad from the south, suggesting that most rail traffic is probably associated with points to the south rather than with Komsomol'sk.

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A housing area just east of the plant is distinct from the El'ban settlement which lies along the opposite side of the Far Eastern Railroad.

A description of the buildings at the explosives plant is presented in Table 1, with references keyed to the line drawing (Plate 2). Height measurements given throughout this memorandum are approximate due to the heavy snowfall present at the time of the photography.

TABLE I. EXPLOSIVES PLANT: Building Descriptions and Dimensions

Reference Number	Description	Length/Width/Height (feet)	Roof Area (square feet)	
1	Six revetted magazines	20 x 20 x 10	2400	
2	Revetted processing building and associated facilities:			
a.	Shed	50 x 20 x 10	1000	
b.	Shed	[REDACTED]	1500	25X1D
c.	Main gable-roofed section	175 x 50 x 25	8750	
d.	Raised section	65 x 50 x 30	3250	
e.	Shed	50 x 15 x 10	750	
f.	Flat-roofed building connected to "c" by a pipeline	40 x 30 x 20	1200	
3	Processing building:			
a.	Gable-roofed section	250 x 50 x 20	12,500	
b.	Flat-roofed shed	85 x 30 x 10	2550	
4	Six horizontal tanks - possible acid storage	length 30; diameter [REDACTED]	-	25X1D
5	Chimney	20 x 20 x 65	-	
6	Processing building:			
a.	Tower section	40 x 30 x 45	1200	
b.	Gable-roofed section	150 x 65 x 20	9750	
c.	Flat-roofed section	60 x 20 x 10	1200	
7	Building with adjacent stack:			
a.	Stack	diameter approx [REDACTED] height 70	-	25X1D
b.	Gable-roofed section	85 x 75 x 20	6375	
c.	Gable-roofed section	40 x 40 x 10	1600	
8	Shed	40 x 20 x 10	800	
9	Gable-roofed building	115 x 30 x 10	3450	
10	Gable-roofed building with adjacent 55-foot stack	100 x 40 x 15	4000	
11	Building with raised portion; nearby flue pipe 55 to 65 feet high	105 x 45 x 10	4725	
12	Probable standpipe with adjacent pump house	20 x 20 x 80 30 x 20 x 10	- 600	

- 6 -

HTA/JM-15/58

TABLE I. EXPLOSIVES PLANT: Building Descriptions and Dimensions
(Cont'd)

Reference Number	Description	Length/Width/Height (feet)	Roof Area (square feet)
13	Wall-bearing type building:		
a.	End section	50 x 45 x 10	2250
b.	Main section	285 x 65 x 10	18,525
14	Wall-bearing type building	135 x 50 x 10	6750
15	Probable building foundation	200 x 30	-
16	Gable-roofed warehouse	200 x 30 x 25	6000
17	Gable-roofed building (a) with flat-roofed end section (b)	230 x 40 x 25 65 x 30 x 15	9200 1950
18	Revetted gable-roofed building	85 x 30 x 15	2550
19	Flat-roofed shed	180 x 50 x 10	9000
20	Flat-roofed shed	75 x 60 x 10	4500
21	Multi-sectioned, wall bearing type building:		
a.	Section	65 x 45 x 10	2925
b.	Section	105 x 50 x 15	5250
c.	Section	165 x 50 x 20	8250
d.	Section	165 x 50 x 15	8250
22	Gable-roofed building - possible guard quarters	105 x 45 x 15	4725
23	Gable-roofed building	105 x 45 x 15	4725
24	Revetted gable-roofed building	90 x 40 x 15	3600
25	Gable-roofed building	115 x 45 x 20	5175
26	Gable-roofed building with four entrance wings	250 x 50 x 15	12,500
27	Gable-roofed building with four entrance wings and two attached sections:		
a.	Flat-roofed section	75 x 50 x 15	3750
b.	Gable-roofed building	250 x 50 x 20	12,500
c.	Flat-roofed section	30 x 30 x 15	900
28	Irregularly-shaped building with associated open storage:		
a.	Flat-roofed section	50 x 30 x 15	1500
b.	Wall-bearing type building	95 x 55 x 15	5225
29	Multi-sectioned, wall-bearing type building:		
a.	Section	105 x 50 x 20	5250
b.	Section	165 x 50 x 25	8250
c.	Section	75 x 50 x 20	3750
30	11 gable-roofed storage buildings	200 x 50 x 15	110,000

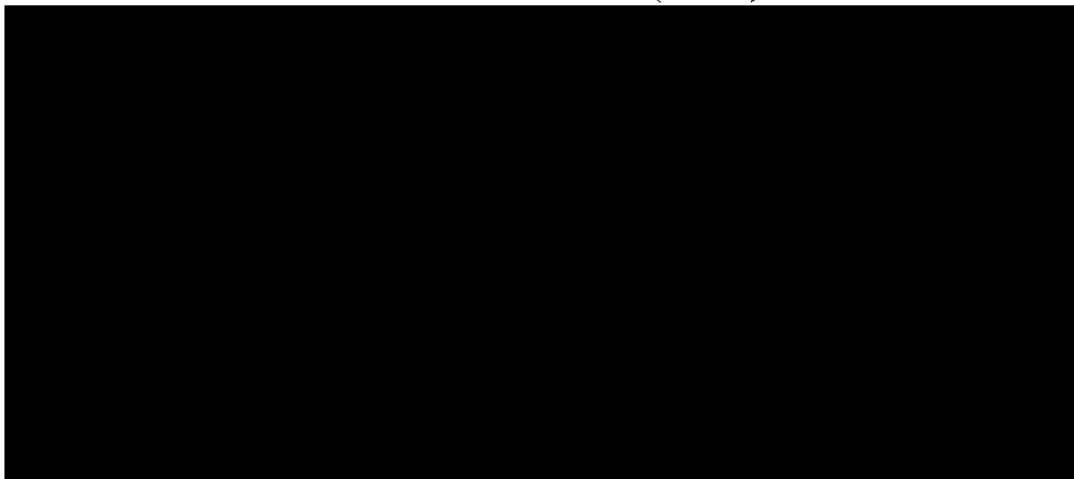
- 97 -

HTA/JM-15/58

TABLE I. EXPLOSIVES PLANT: Building Descriptions and Dimensions
(Cont'd)

Reference Number	Description	Length/Width/Height (feet)	Roof Area (square feet)
31	Gable-roofed building	50 x 20 x 10	1000
32	"T"-shaped building with valley roof	180 x 50 x 20 105 x 50 x 20	9000 5250
33	Gable-roofed building	105 x 45 x 15	4725
34	Gable-roofed building	100 x 30 x 15	3000
35	Monitor-roofed building	75 x 50 x 15	3750
36	Monitor-roofed building	105 x 50 x 15	5250
37	Monitor-roofed building with a raised end section:		
a.	Entrance shed	65 x 10 x 10	650
b.	Main building	350 x 70 x 15	24,500
c.	Raised end section	70 x 35 x 20	2450
38	Gable-roofed storage building	135 x 40 x 10	5400
39	"U"-shaped building with con- nected 50' stack u/c; possible steam/power plant	130 x 85	11,050
40	Gable-roofed storage building	270 x 50 x 25	13,500
41	Two gable-roofed storage buildings	210 x 50 x 20	21,000
42	Gable-roofed storage building	125 x 40 x 10	5000
43	Curved, gable-roofed storage building	300 x 50 x 20	15,000
44	Gable-roofed building; possible guardhouse	95 x 30 x 15	2850
45	Gable-roofed building	90 x 40 x 20	3600

EXPLOSIVES STORAGE AREA, 5°08'N/136°28'E (Plate 3)



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25X9

This explosives storage area does not show any particular signs of age as was true with the explosives plant. It is not shown on the 1943-44 [REDACTED] charts referred to previously. Nor has there been any apparent change in its over-all boundaries which measure approximately 9,000 by 5,500 feet. Besides the 134 revetted one-story storage buildings, which have a total roof area of 810,500 square feet, there is a large rail-served transloading building near the main entrance gate at the south. The layout of road and rail as shown on the line drawings (Plates 2 and 3) indicates that most of the transportation between the plant and the storage area is probably by road and that rail service is primarily for shipments between the storage area and more distant points.

25X1C

Just outside the main gate there is a possible communication center with two towers. One is a lattice tower and the other is possibly a lattice tower of heavier construction. Dimensions for this storage area are shown on the line drawing.

Although there definitely appears to be a relationship between the storage area and the explosives plant because of their close proximity and road connections, the exact nature of the relationship is not clear. The plant appears to be an older installation and actually too small to demand a storage facility of this size. A large storage area in a remote, heavily-secured location such as this must be considered a stockpile of some consequence. The roads do not appear adequate for handling large missiles, but small rockets, ammunition, propellants or HE could be stored here.

PROBABLE MILITARY DEPOT, 50°01'N/136°28'E (Plate 4)

The third installation of interest near El'ban appears to be a military depot. It is similar to the explosives plant in that its over-all size has been reduced, as shown on Plate 4. Although it is not shown on the 1943-44 [REDACTED] charts, it does not appear to be of recent construction. Within the double-fenced area there are 14 non-revetted storage buildings and several smaller miscellaneous buildings, all of which are described in Table 2. Just west of the depot there is a single fenced area which is probably a military garrison associated with the depot.

25X1C

Although this third installation was originally thought to be related to the explosives plant and the explosives storage area to the north, this now appears unlikely in that the rail and road service from the depot appear to go primarily to the south. There is a small settlement along the rail line just south of the depot which is identified on the Russian Map (in the CIA Atlas) as Mengon. There is no further information from the photography or from other sources concerning the nature of this probable military depot.

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TABLE 2. PROBABLE MILITARY DEPOT: Building Descriptions and Dimensions

Reference Number	Description	Length/Width/Height (feet)	Roof Area (square feet)
1	Gable-roofed building with two dormers	150 x 50 x 20	7500
2	Gable-roofed building with entrance wing; possible guard house	40 x 30 x 10	1200
3	Gable-roofed, barracks-type building	150 x 50 x 20	7500
4	Gable-roofed, barracks-type building	110 x 50 x 30	5500
5	"T"-shaped, valley-roofed, administrative-type building	125 x 50 x 20 70 x 50 x 20	6250 3500
6	Hip-roofed, administrative-type building	75 x 30 x 20	2250
7	Gable-roofed, barracks-type building	150 x 55 x 25	8250
8	Gable-roofed building	170 x 40 x 20	6800
9	Flat-roofed building; possible vehicle storage/maintenance shed	125 x 20 x 15	2500
10	Gable-roofed building	75 x 25 x 10	1875
11	Fence-enclosed, gable-roofed building with drive-around road	35 x 20 x 10	700
12	Two gable-roofed buildings:		
a.		40 x 25 x 15	1000
b.		55 x 25 x 25	1375
13	Gable-roofed building	65 x 30 x 15	1950
14	Gable-roofed building	50 x 20 x 15	1000
15	Gable-roofed building within a small compound	75 x 60 x 25	4500
16	Gable-roofed building	85 x 30 x 15	2550
17	Gable-roofed building	40 x 40 x 15	1600
18	Gable-roofed building with two entrance wings; probable gate security building	40 x 30 x 20	1200
19	Wall-secured area	90 x 65	-
20	Gable-roofed building	50 x 20 x 10	1000
21	Gable-roofed building	30 x 15 x 10	450
22	Five gable-roofed storage buildings	85 x 30 x 15	12,750
23	Gable-roofed transloading shed	285 x 45 x 25	12,825
24	Shed	60 x 30 x 10	1800
25	Shed		600
26	Gable-roofed building	50 x 25 x 10	1250
27	14 gable-roofed storage buildings	170 x 55 x 25	130,900
28	Flat-roofed building with entrance wing; possible security building	30 x 15 x 15	450
29	Gable-roofed building	35 x 20 x 10	700

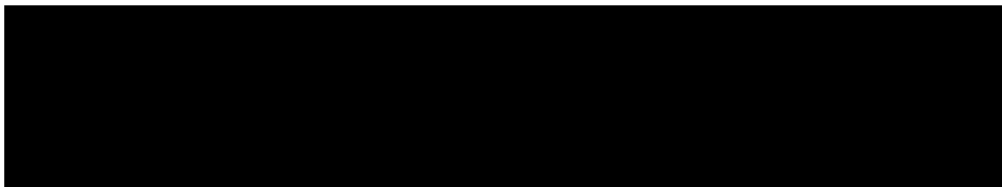
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MAP DATA:

WAC 204, 1:1,000,000

AMS Series N504, Sheet NM53-6, 1:250,000



CIA Atlas of the USSR, Jan 58, Map 19C, Khabarovskiy Kray

SOURCE REFERENCE:



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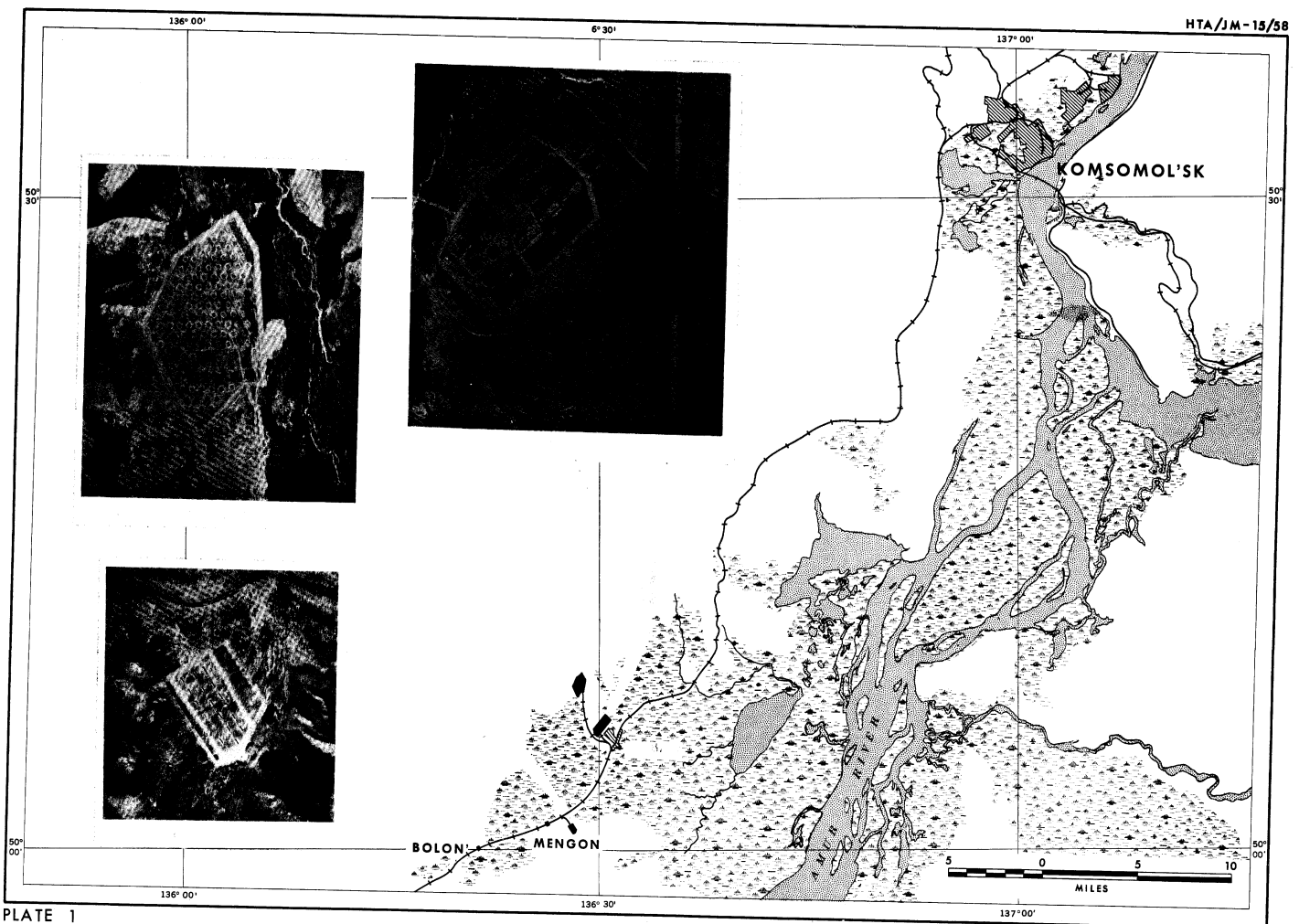


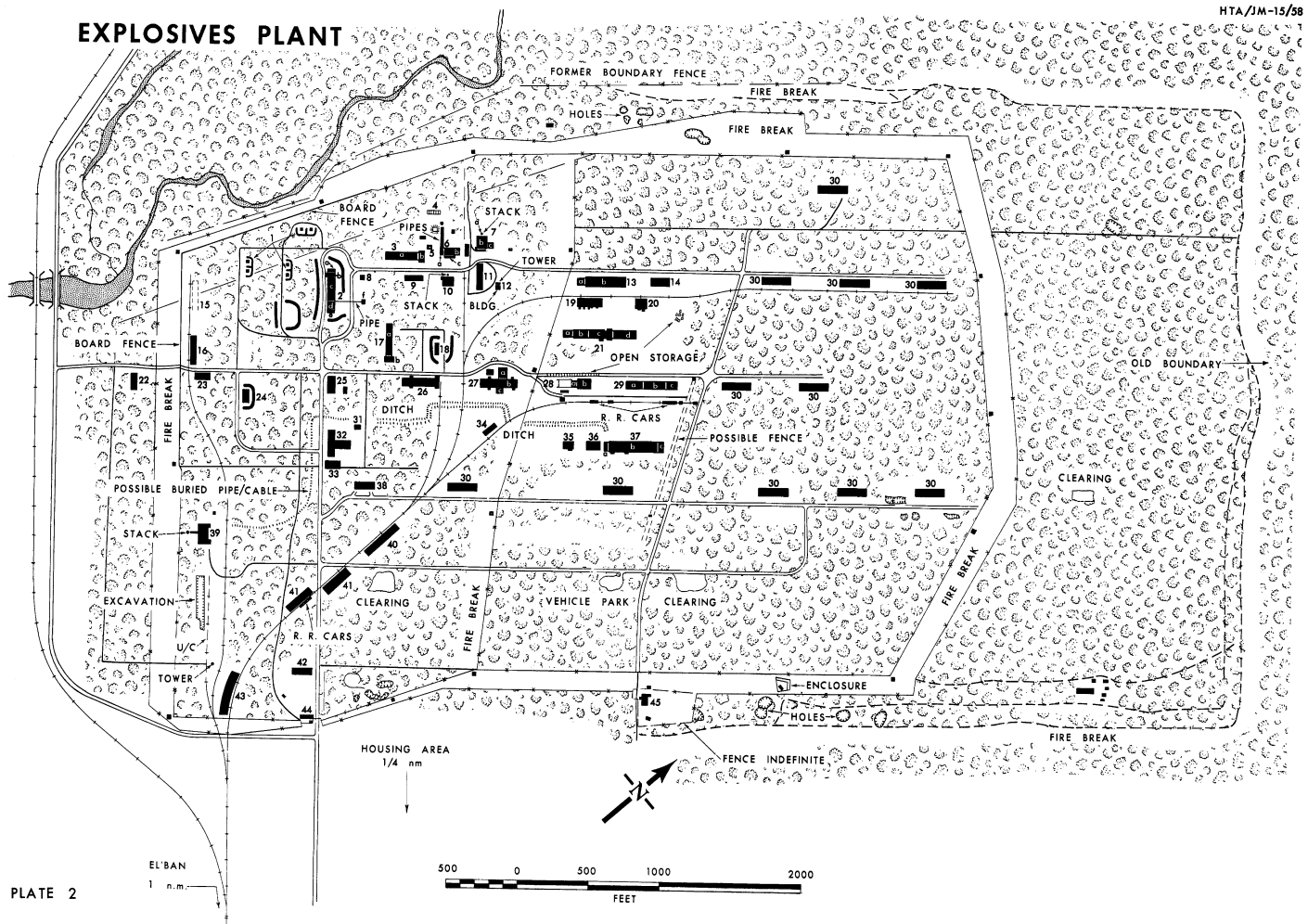
PLATE 1

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EXPLOSIVES STORAGE AREA

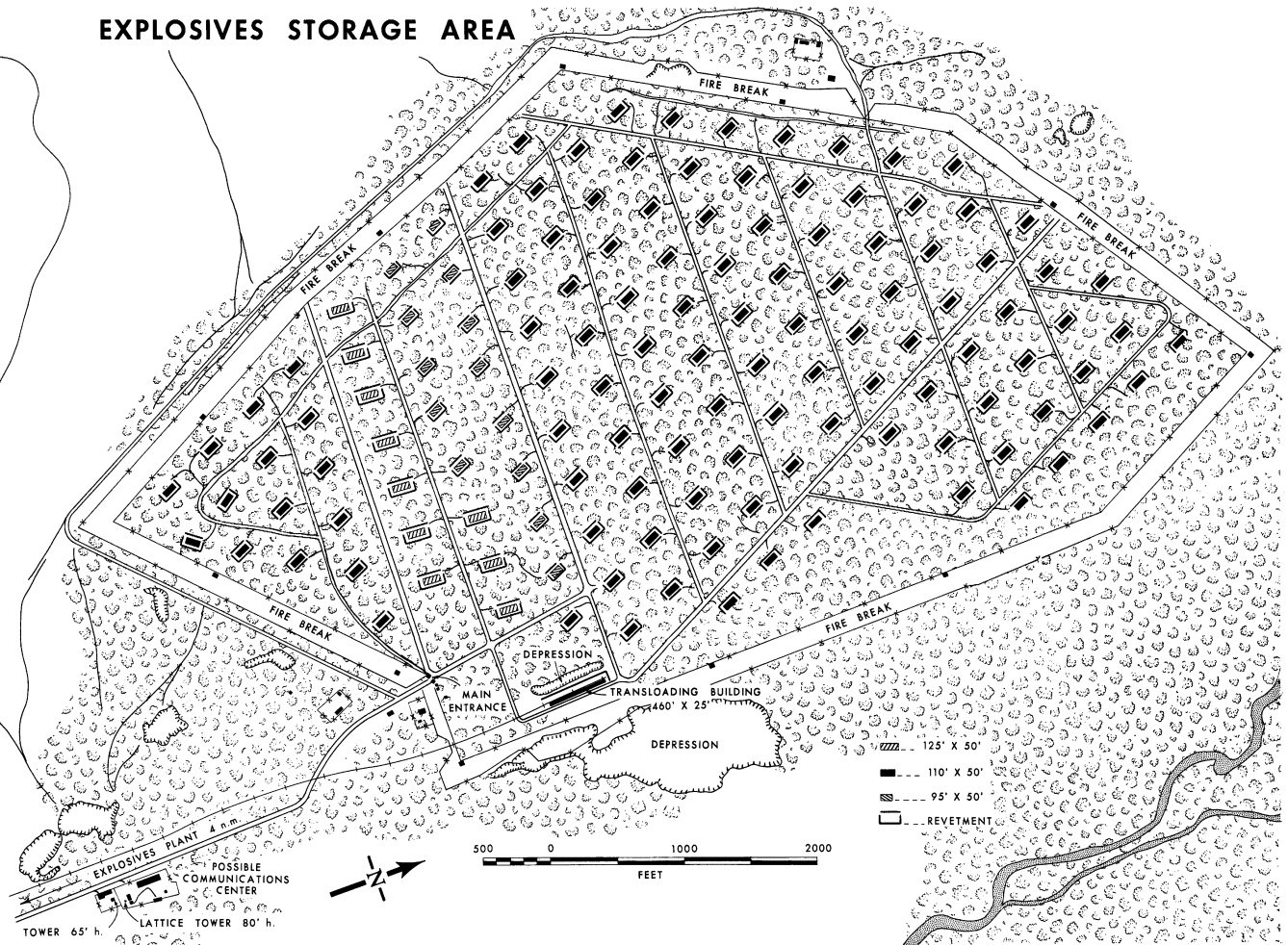


PLATE 3

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PROBABLE MILITARY DEPOT

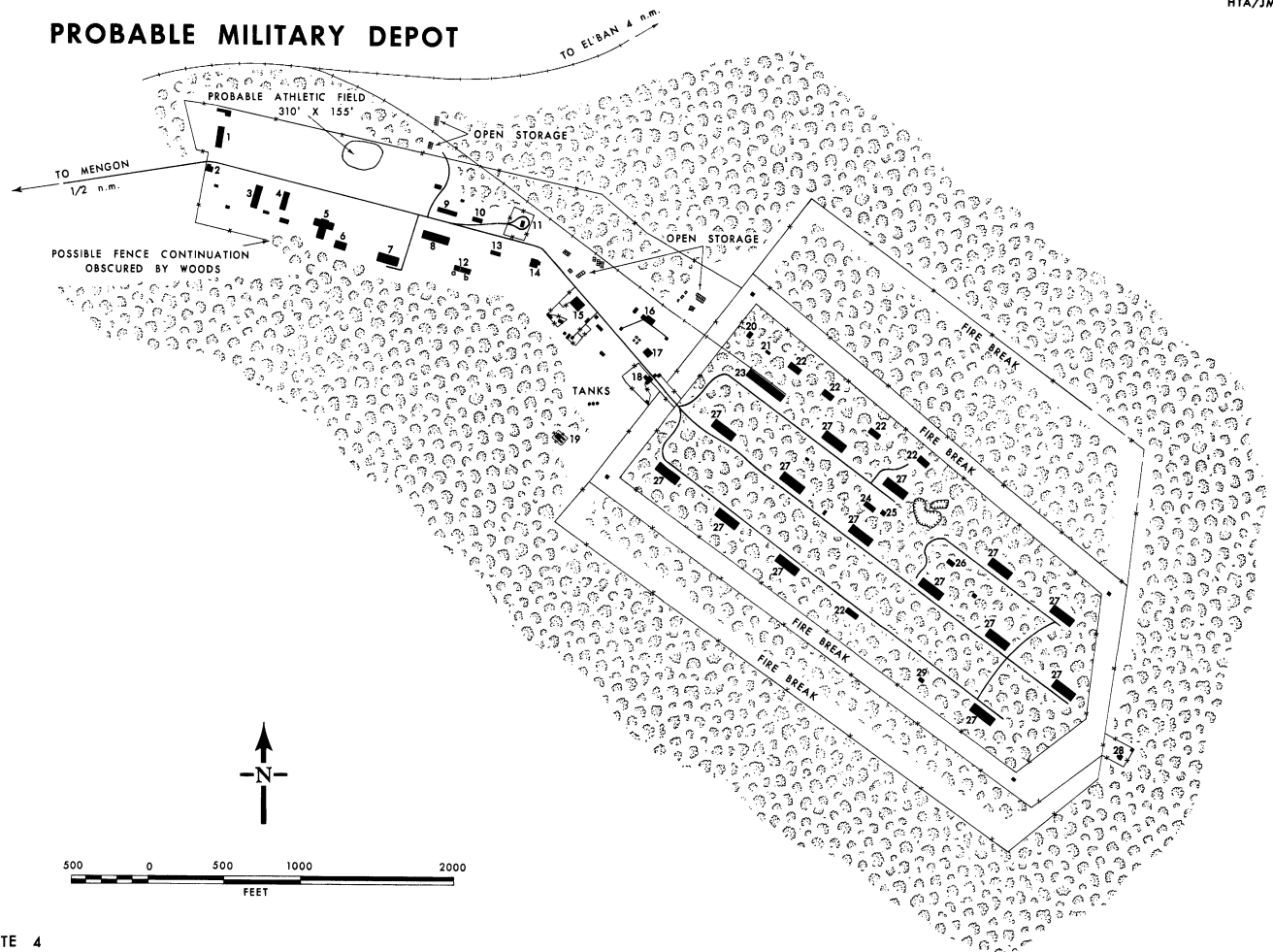


PLATE 4

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